

CROP REPORT

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PRESS RELEASE



OREGON
FIELD
OFFICE

1220 SW 3rd Ave., Room 1735
Portland, OR 97204
503-326-2131 or 1-800-338-2157
FAX: 326-2549 or 1-800-731-7011

2005 Hazelnut Crop forecast down 25 percent from 2004

Hazelnut production in Oregon is forecast to be 28,000 tons this year, according to the Oregon field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. If realized, this would be 25 percent below last year's revised hazelnut crop of 37,500 tons, and down 26 percent from 2003.

From 1992 to 2003, Oregon hazelnut production has exhibited a biennial bearing pattern. Production in those years fluctuated greatly from year-to-year, some more than 200 percent. The 2004 crop deviated from this production pattern, with a reduction in production of just one percent from 2003. If realized, the 2005 forecasted production level would again break the trend, with production expecting to decline in what would have traditionally been considered an "up" year.

This year there was an average of 271 nuts picked per tree for the Hazelnut Objective Yield Survey used each year to forecast the State's hazelnut crop. This total reflects slightly less nuts per tree than last year, but is slightly higher than 2003. The percentage of good nuts analyzed in the laboratory, at 79.5 percent, is the lowest good nut count since 1990. A later than normal drop in some growing areas may have resulted in more defective nuts getting picked and analyzed in the lab than in a typical year. Brown stained nuts totaled 0.90 percent of all good nuts sampled; brown stained nuts sampled were 0.10 percent of all good nuts sampled in 2003 and 2004.

The average size grade per good nut was 6.51 and the dry weight per good nut sampled was 3.34 grams. The nuts sampled in 2005 were both larger and heavier than they have been since 2000 when the dry weight was 3.42 grams. The largest nuts, size 8, accounted for 48.4 percent of all nuts sampled, the highest since 1998 when size 8 nuts accounted for 52.0 percent of all nuts sampled.

Oregon Hazelnut Production, 1998-2005

Utilized production (In-shell basis)							
1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 ^{1/}	Forecast 2005 ^{2/}
Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
15,400	39,700	22,300	49,500	19,500	37,900	37,500	28,000

1/ Revised August 2005.
2/ As of August 23, 2005.

Hazelnuts: Share of Good Nuts by Size, 2002-2005

OASS Laboratory			Share of Good Nuts				Industry Equivalents	
Size	Minimum Measure	Maximum Measure	2002	2003	2004	2005	Size	Measure
	mm	mm	percent	percent	percent	percent		mm
1		14.6	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	Small	less than 17.9
2	14.6	18.3	7.4	12.0	5.3	4.9	Small	less than 17.9
3	18.3	19.9	7.6	15.6	9.6	7.6	Medium	17.9 to 19.4
4	19.9	20.9	7.5	15.2	9.5	5.2	Large	19.4 to 22.2
5	20.9	22.0	13.8	20.8	15.3	8.5	Large	19.4 to 22.2
6	22.0	22.6	11.8	12.3	11.7	7.9	Large	19.4 to 22.2
7	22.6	23.6	18.9	12.8	18.5	17.3	Jumbo	22.2 +
8	23.6		32.8	10.8	29.9	48.4	Jumbo	22.2 +

For more details, please call (503) 326-2131 or see our Home Page: www.nass.usda.gov/or
E-mail: nass-or@nass.usda.gov

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
OREGON FIELD OFFICE
1220 SW 3rd Ave., Room 1735
Portland, Oregon 97204
Phone: (503) 326-2131